



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# James Campbell and Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuges

*Planning Update 2, June 2009*



Honu / Claire Fackler, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries

## Thank You for Participating

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is developing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for James Campbell and Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges). This plan will guide the management of the Refuges for the next 15 years. As part of this process, we have been seeking public input on management issues, concerns, and opportunities. This second planning update provides

information on the status of the planning process and what we have heard from people so far.

In November 2008, the Service mailed approximately 200 copies of Planning Update #1 to local conservation groups, research organizations, local, state and federal government agencies, and others who have expressed an interest in the planning process. An electronic copy of the Planning Update was available for visitors to the FWS

website (accessed at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/html>), as well as the Refuges' websites. The Update described the Refuge purposes, draft wildlife, habitat and public use goals, and preliminary issues to be considered in the CCP.

This second planning update summarizes the comments received, and lists primary management issues that will be used to draft management alternatives and refine draft goals and objectives. We would like to thank everyone who has provided comments and we invite you to continue sharing your ideas with us. Your participation continues to be critical to the success of this planning effort.

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# What We Learned From Your Comments

Two public scoping meetings were held, one in Pearl City, Hawai'i on December 9, 2008, and the other in Kahuku, Hawai'i on January 8, 2009. They were advertised in Planning Update #1, a news release was sent to local media contacts, and flyers were posted in the local community. We had no attendees for the Pearl City meeting and 10 private citizens and representatives from various organizations attended the meeting in Kahuku. During scoping, a total of three written responses were received, addressing additional land acquisition, use of an abandoned airstrip, and visitor services. The three comments received are summarized in the box to the right.

## *Summary of Comments*

### **Land Acquisition**

Commenter is interested in the Service acquiring additional land units along the coastline of O'ahu between Kahuku and Mokulē'ia.

### **Kahuku Airstrip**

We received a suggestion that the Service should preserve and reopen an old asphalt runway located in the approved acquisition area for James Campbell NWR. The commenter recommended the runway be made available for: 1) an emergency landing site; 2) an auxiliary landing field for short-field practice; and 3) a recreation site for picnicking (accessible by air only).

### **Visitor Services**

Commenter suggested that all O'ahu Refuge units should have some public access with expansion of visitor infrastructure such as boardwalks and viewing platforms. "Docent and/or USF&W service led tours should be allowed on all units if they do not conflict with the endangered birds nesting. Conditional use permits with adequate visitor guidelines should be allowed to those interested persons who meet all requirements and are willing to pay special use fees. It would be beneficial to have USF&W personnel stationed on the two refuges seven days a week. Perhaps a visitor fee could be charged the same way Kilauea Point NWR on Kauai is doing now."

## About the CCP

The James Campbell and Pearl Harbor Refuges' CCP will describe Refuge goals, objectives, and management strategies for achieving the purposes for which the Refuges were established. It will be reviewed and periodically updated. The CCP will ensure that Refuge management reflects the purposes of the Refuges and the mission, policies, and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CCP will also:

- Inform the public about proposed Refuge management actions.
- Provide a vision statement that describes desired future conditions for the Refuge.
- Ensure that current and future uses of the Refuge are compatible with its purposes.
- Provide long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- Provide opportunities for public input on management decisions.
- Provide budget justification for operation, maintenance, and facility development requests.

As we develop the CCP, we will also be developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) document that evaluates the consequences of implementing various management alternatives. This analysis will be developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## *Roots of the CCP*

When Congress amended the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (Act) in 1997, it ratified an underlying philosophy that "wildlife comes first" on Refuges. The Act:

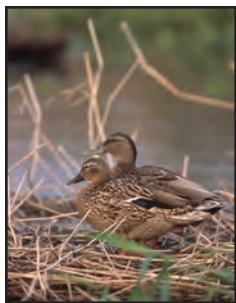
- Provides the Service with guidance for managing Refuges to ensure the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.
- Identifies six wildlife-dependent public uses on National Wildlife Refuges—wildlife observation and photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education.
- Strengthens the compatibility determination process used to assure that all activities permitted on a Refuge do not conflict with the Refuge's purposes and goals.
- Requires all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP.



# Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge

*He lei momi, he pu'uhonua a kaou*

*"...a string of pearls offering refuge to nature..."*



*Hawaiian duck*  
USFWS

Nestled along the shore of the famous Pearl Harbor in the 'Ewa Plain, surrounded by urban development are two small brackish wetlands that provide

a valuable oasis for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and wildlife from places as far away as the Arctic Tundra. Active management and shoreline restoration enhance these wetlands which provide all life requirements for Hawaiian waterbirds. Environmental education provides our youth with a link to natural resources, wetland ecology, and associated wildlife.

Unlike the wetland units of the Pearl Harbor Refuge, the Kalaeloa unit of the Refuge is a unique coastal dryland plant and exposed coral reef community. Native and endangered plants thrive on the coral surface and provide a source of seeds for continuing restoration efforts. Rare anchialine pools, sinkholes connected to groundwater with tidal influence, are being restored and once again are home to native shrimp and other wildlife. Local and international volunteers support habitat restoration, historical preservation, and environmental education programs. Restoration efforts and the protection of these valuable national treasures remind visitors of what the coastal 'Ewa Plain once looked like. Kalaeloa serves as a model for a collaborative approach to natural resource management.



*Most wetlands near the coast around O'ahu have been lost. The refuge protects and manages a few of the last remaining wetlands. / USFWS*



*Endangered Hawaiian stilts, as well as other endangered waterbirds, depend on the refuge for protected nesting and feeding areas. / USFWS*



*Introducing new generations to the outdoors is a vital part of our conservation mission.*  
Bill Perry/USFWS



*The Kalaeloa Unit of the refuge is one of the last remaining places in Hawaii to find the endangered plant 'ewa hina hina. / USFWS*



# James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

*Ka'aina me ke kai, ka nohona i ka nahelehele laha 'ole o Hawai'i*  
*"...land and water, home to Hawai'i's unique wildlife..."*

The James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest restored, functional coastal wetlands in Hawai'i. Habitat is managed and readily available to meet life requirements of all native Hawaiian waterbirds. Migratory birds from around the world can be found in this diverse wetland community.

Visitors experience the solitude offered by this expansive coastal wetland and dune system. They appreciate and understand these rare fragile environments, natural resources, and vast open spaces. Partners, neighbors, and community continue to work together to protect and enhance these unique resources.



*The endangered Hawaiian moorhen may spend its entire life in wetlands protected and carefully managed by the refuge. Here it will find the habitat it needs to nest, raise and feed its young.*  
 Mike Silbernagle/USFWS



*The Hawaiian coot (above with chicks) is another of the endangered Hawaiian waterbirds that is found on the refuge for most of its life.*  
 Mike Silbernagle/USFWS



*Thousands of school kids visit the refuges each year, where they may get a little wet and dirty, but they also learn new important lessons about conserving wildlife.*  
 Mike Silbernagle/USFWS



# Expanded Refuge Boundary

On May 25, 2006, the President signed Public Law 109-225, authorizing the expansion of James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge from 342 acres to 1,100 acres. All of the new acreage is currently owned by the James Campbell Company. The Service and James Campbell Company signed a purchase agreement for the property in December 2008 and we hope to complete this acquisition in 2010. The additional land will connect the current Punamanō and Kī'i Units in one contiguous refuge to protect the largest natural coastal wetland and last remaining natural coastal dune ecosystem on O'ahu (refer to map below). The newly expanded Refuge will be a treasure for many generations to come by providing a

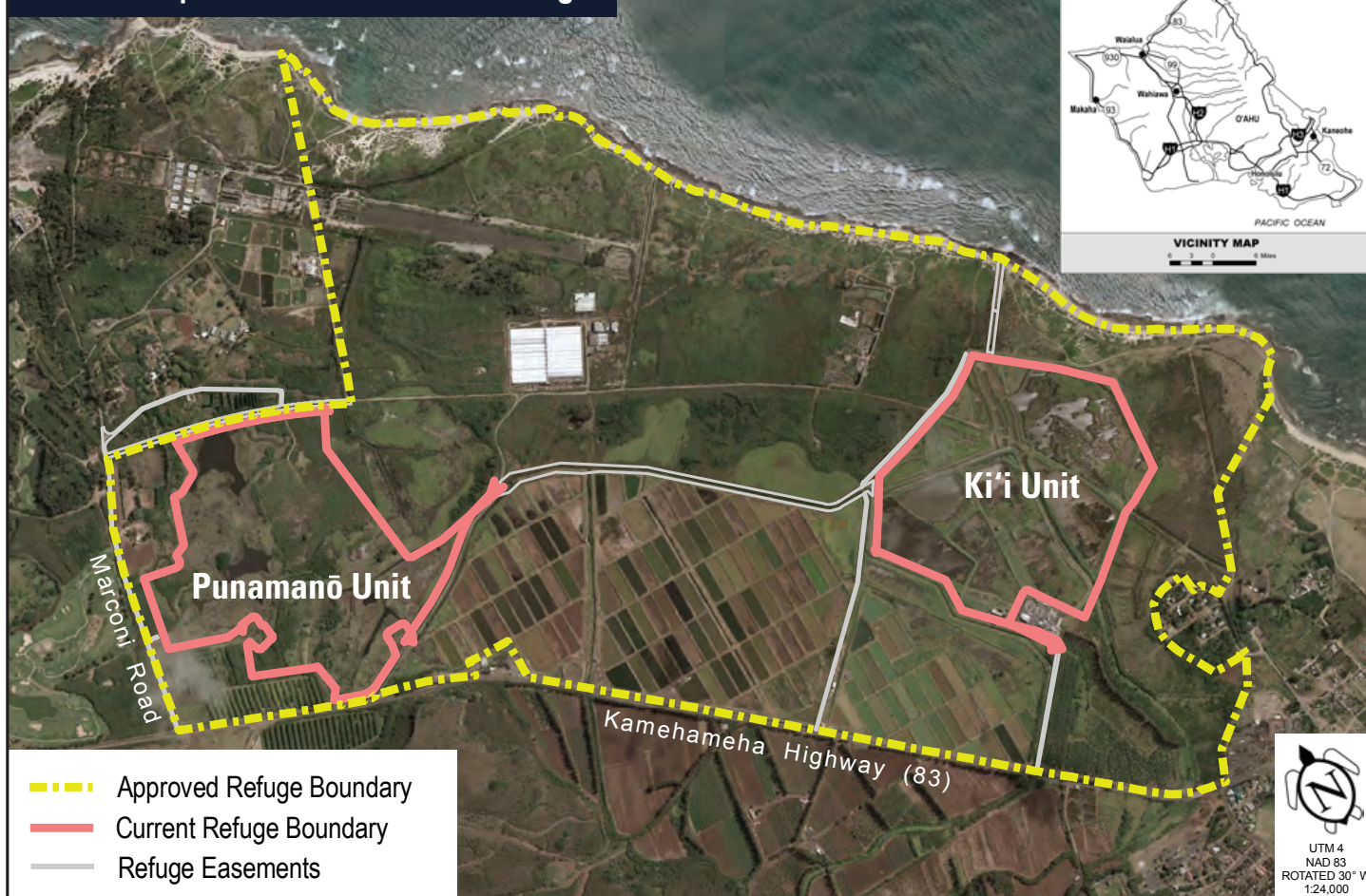
protected haven for four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and a variety of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl that rely on these coastal wetlands and surrounding lands. Protection of almost two miles of the dune and strand vegetation along the coast will conserve resting habitat for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and nesting habitat for threatened green sea turtles and important seabirds that formerly nested in this dune habitat. Other important native wildlife that will benefit include the pueo (Hawaiian owl) and a species of rare damselfly. A visitor center/office may be constructed on an upland area to support environmental education and interpretation programs, visitor services, and habitat management programs. Because of the location

and natural function of this floodplain, the land acquisition will strengthen the cooperative flood control efforts between the Refuge and the Kahuku community, which is periodically inundated during periods of heavy rain. The CCP will include management strategies for all lands within the 1,100-acre expanded refuge boundary.



*Hawaiian monk seal and calf / USFWS*

## James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge





Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C  
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712

*Address correction requested*

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### How to Contact Us

To be included on the mailing list, provide comments, ask questions, or request information, please contact:

**David Ellis, Project Leader**  
**O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

**By Mail:**

O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C  
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712

**By Phone:**

808/637-6330

**By Fax:**

808/637-3578

**By Email:**

FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov  
Please include "James Campbell and  
Pearl Harbor NWRs CCP" in the subject line.

**View Previous Updates at:** <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>  
Select "James Campbell and Pearl Harbor NWRs" from the list.

**View the Refuges' Official Websites:** <http://www.fws.gov/jamescampbell/>  
<http://www.fws.gov/pearlharbor/>